



Longhill High School & Woodingdean Wanderers Football Club

3G Pitch Project Statement – August 2024

'In the community, for the community'

3G Proposal

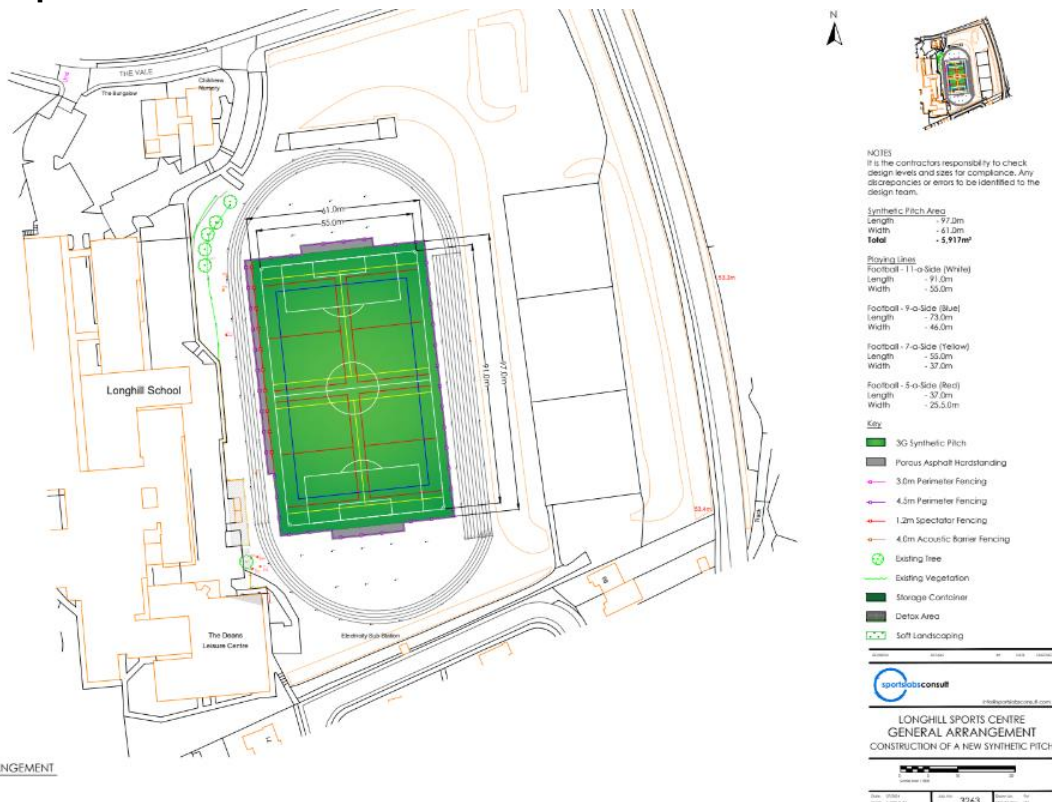
Longhill High School are proposing the installation of a 3G artificial football pitch which will include a shock pad to allow rugby to be played too. This project is in partnership with Woodingdean Wanderers Football Club who approached the school as their club has outgrown their current playing field.

The pitch will be positioned within main area of the school's field and will maintain the running track around its perimeter

Hire and use of the pitch will be available for the whole community and managed by the sports centre.

Both the Sussex FA and Football foundation are aware of the plans and are supportive.

Provisional plans



Longhill High School

Longhill High School is a co-education local authority secondary school for 11–16-year-olds located on Falmer Road in Rottingdean Brighton. Longhill High School has a Published Admission Number of 1,100 pupils. The school serves communities to the East of Brighton and include communities in Woodingdean, Rottingdean, Saltdean, Ovingdean and Whitehawk.

The communities in East Brighton includes areas of high Socio-economic deprivation. 42.03% of the school community is Free School Meal. This is significantly higher than the national average. In January 2024, 2.1 million pupils were eligible for free school meals which represents 24.6% of all pupils in the UK.

27.81% of Longhill High School's cohort come from Whitehawk of which 60.35% are in receipt of Free School Meals. Whitehawk is Brighton & Hove's most deprived area. Whitehawk Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is ranked 294 out of 32,844 in England. Whitehawk has six LSOA that cover the estate which are among the 7% most deprived LSOA in England.

Longhill High School also has a Sports Centre. Longhill Sports Centre has served the local community since October 2004 when it opened following a successful bid for National Lottery Funding. Longhill Sports Centre is open all year round and is ideally placed to manage and maintain the proposed 3G Pitch. Longhill Sports centre already enjoys good transport links and parking. The new 3G pitch would not require further parking or transport links. Longhill Sports Centre has worked hard with local community leaders to ensure good communication with our local residents. These relationships will continue if a 3G Pitch is developed at Longhill High School.

At the moment the school and the local community facilities are poor. Longhill School has access to one full size pitch and a small-sided football pitch to the north of The Vale. The school is located at the bottom of a valley and these facilities often experience flooding and as a result often out of bounds to the school and local community.

The lack of floodlighting also means that school fixtures and training can-not be take place throughout the year.

Map 1 *Longhill High School Site*



The siting of a 3G Football pitch at Longhill High School would not only see a step-change improvement to our curriculum offer allowing for guaranteed outdoor facilities all year round, it would also see an expansion in the playing of football and rugby particularly women's football. Woodingdean Wanderers FC are an award-winning football club that will be partnering Longhill High School in this development. They are currently experiencing a rapid expansion to their club particularly with girls' football. Woodingdean Wanderers FC were chosen to showcase girls' football at the recent UEFA Women's EURO 2022 which was held at Falmer Stadium.

Longhill High School recognises that the development of a 3G Football Pitch will have an impact on the local ecosystem. Consequently, the school has worked with consultants to ensure that the development will provide a Biodiversity Net Gain by off-setting land on land to the north of The Vale.

The development of a 3G Football Pitch will see the loss of an existing rugby pitch. In order to counter this loss, the pitch is designed to allow for multi-sport use including Rugby Football. This will allow the school curriculum to continue and be enhanced. The plan includes a relationship with Lewes Rugby Football Club who are keen to use our facilities for training.

Our plans include pathways for youngsters to move between school sports and community sports clubs right up to professional women's football with our links with Lewes FC. This will enhance our community's participation in sports in their education and leisure time.

Longhill Sports Centre

As a centre/site we currently have 5 teams that use our main 11v11 pitch as their home ground along with 3 children's teams who use our smaller junior pitch which is located north of The Vale.

Main 11v11 Pitch

Ovingdean FC – *Brighton, Worthing & District Football League*

East Brighton Eagles FC (*formally Kingston Broadway*) - *Intermediate Division, Sussex Sunday League*

Woodingdean Women's – *Sussex County Women & Girls Football League (WSL Div. 1)*

Woodingdean Reserves – *Intermediate Division, Sussex Sunday League*

Saltdean United Blacks U15's – *Mid Sussex Youth Football League*

Junior Pitch

Rottingdean Village youth Under 9's A

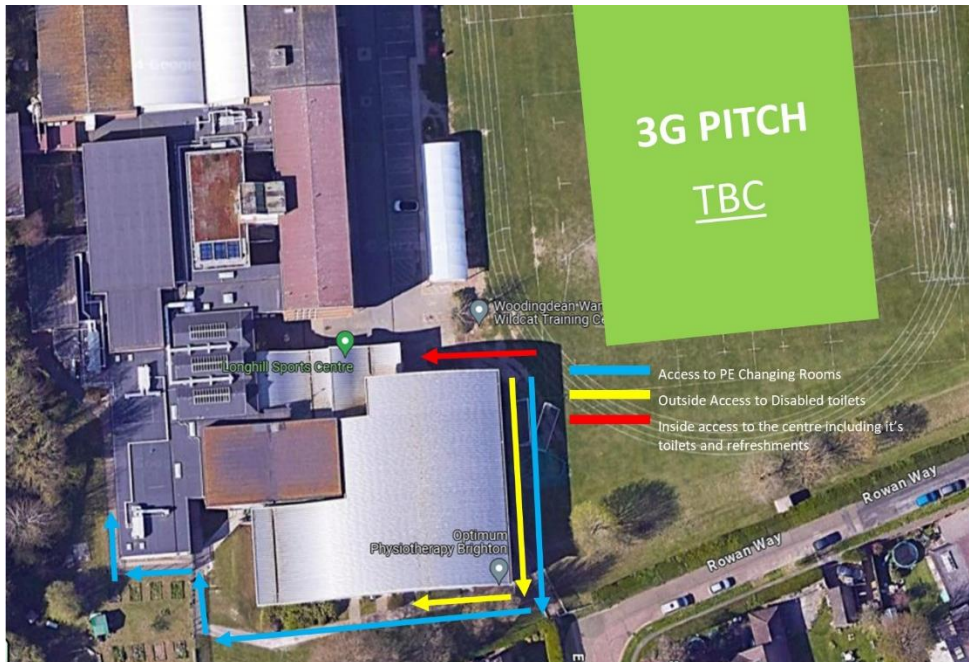
Rottingdean Village youth Under 9's B

Rottingdean Village youth Under 11's

This season alone, 2023-24, we have had to cancel *thirteen* matches on our 11v11 pitch due to poor weather and/or poor pitch conditions.

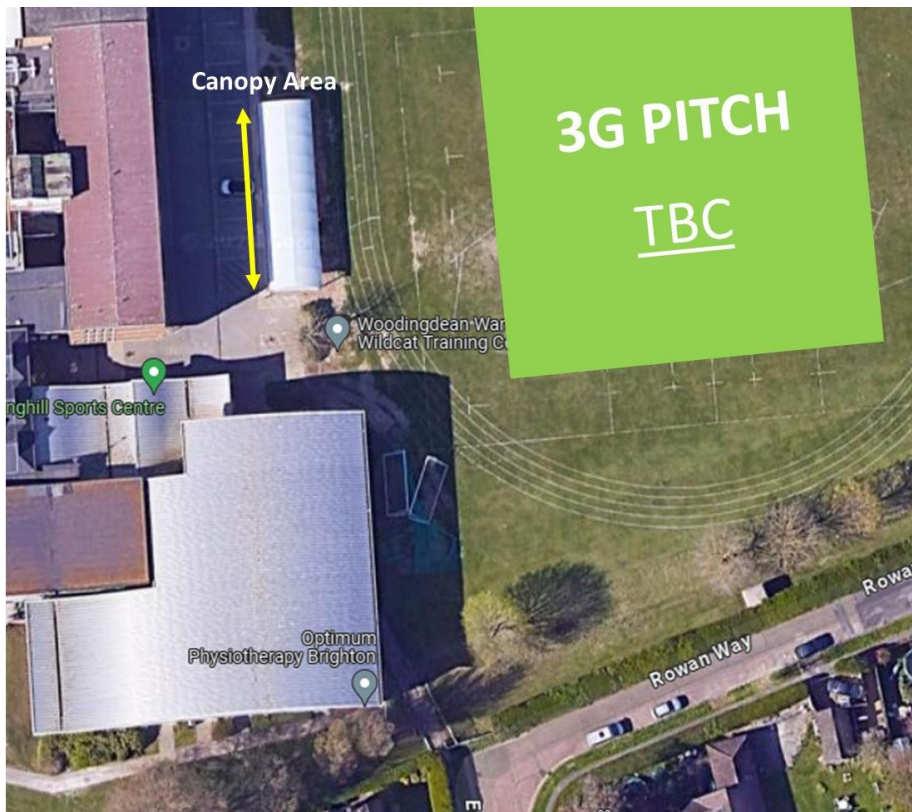
Changing Room Facilities – the schools changing rooms are dual use which can be divided via a partition, two teams can use one changing room at any one time. We have two dual use changing rooms which means we can have up to four teams using the changing rooms at any one time. The changing rooms have access to showers and toilets, we also have two more changing rooms within the sports centre itself.

Map 2: Changing Room Access Route (including disabled toilets)



There is also a canopy area measuring approx. 23m x 6.5m where the potential new 3G pitch will be visible allowing parents and supporters to watch games in comfort.

Map 3: Covered Canopy Area for Parents and supporters



The school has 90 free car parking bays onsite which adequately serves the school and sports centre parking needs.

Longhill High School/Sports Centre is also served by Brighton & Hove Buses number 2 bus which runs between Steyning and Rottingdean which stops at the top of The Vale and the number 22 bus which runs between Churchill Square and Woodingdean which can be accessed at the bottom of Cowley Drive. In addition, the Big Lemon Bus service between Woodingdean and Patcham runs services via Ovingdean Road. The school is also served by school buses 72,72a, 76 and 76a which serve the school's wider catchment area in Saltdean and Peacehaven. There is also a later school bus that serves the Whitehawk community which runs from the school at 4 o'clock allowing the Whitehawk community access to after school clubs.

The school is also served by a cycle path that runs down parts of the Falmer Road and an old parish lane that runs adjacent to Falmer Road from Woodingdean to Ovingdean Road.

There is currently an artificial cricket strip running through the centre of the field, the strip is no longer in a useable condition and has not been used since 2019. Longhill High School has a good working relationship and agreement with Rottingdean Cricket Club where they use the sports centres indoor facilities during the winter months for an after-school club which is for the pupils of Longhill High School and then use their own outdoor facilities during the summer season. This arrangement managed by the head of PE and enables a sporting progression path for players to join and support our local cricket club.

Longhill High School and Sports Centre will be working with the following partners and organisations for this project:

- Woodingdean Wanderers FC (*primary partnership club*)
- Rottingdean Village FC (*secondary partnership club*)
- Lewes Rugby Club
- Other diverse organisations encouraging diversity and inclusion

Woodingdean Wanderers FC

Woodingdean Wanderers FC are a 2 Star FA Accredited Football Club located on the outskirts of East Brighton. The club is located in Woodingdean Brighton which is part of Longhill High School's catchment area.

With well over 400 players spanning 30 teams ranging from Youth (Boys/Girls) to Adults (Men's/Women's/Veterans) teams. The club currently uses the Longhill school/sports

centre's facilities for the WWFC Wildcats, girls football team, and adult home pitches for the Men's reserve teams and the Women's first team.

Known as "The Scamps" the teams range from Youth (Boys and Girls) at every age group from 5 - 16 years. The team's girls' section (Wildcats) in particular, has grown rapidly over recent years. Currently there are 8 Girls Teams. Woodingdean Wanderers currently have 3 Adult Men's teams (including veterans) and a Women's Team.

The club is actively working towards Three Star Accreditation. In addition, the club is working towards offering disability football, initially joining forces with our friends from other local teams in the 'Deans' area.

WWFC is a registered charity and as such is a 'not for profit' organisation and run entirely by volunteers, with our funds contributing to the running of the club, including providing kit and equipment. Our volunteers perform various roles including members of the committee, coaching, grounds, maintenance and running our tea hut at the Nuffield playing fields. We are proud of our club and the opportunities we give to children of all ages and we were particularly pleased to have just heard that we've been nominated for the FA Grassroots Club of the year 2024.

Pitches Behind the Nuffield Hospital - WWFC

Map 4: *Playing Fields Behind Nuffield Hospital*



Woodingdean Wanderers currently have a rolling 1 year lease agreement with our Friends at the Nuffield Hospital, for the use of the Grounds behind the Hospital where we play our home fixtures.

WWFC maintain the pitches. There are currently 4 pitches at the Nuffield (5v5, 7v7, 9v9 and 11v11). Goals and equipment are stored on site in 2 compounds. There is also a basic tea hut that is run on match days. Unfortunately, we have outgrown the Nuffield and are looking for more venues to hire, in an attempt to continue to provide Football to all of our young players.

Partnership between Longhill School/Sports Centre and WWFC

WWFC enjoy a very healthy long-term relationship with our friends at Longhill School.

All of our Girls’ teams (Wildcats) have trained on the playing fields and inside the Main Sports Centre at Longhill School for many years and our Women’s Team play all their home games there too.

WWFC have also been in discussion with Longhill School for over 30 months, with the support of the Sussex County Football Association about a joint venture to fund the provision of a 3G pitch at Longhill School, which is essential for the continued growth of our Club.

We have struggled in recent years with the continuing inclement weather, causing more and more games being cancelled because of waterlogged grass pitches, which has affected the conclusion of some Age Groups not completing their Seasons.

A Floodlit 3G facility would help the club fulfil fixtures, in times of inclement weather and allow us to train, all year round, in the daytime and evenings, especially after the clocks go back.

Funding for a 3G pitch at Longhill would be partly provided by Longhill School and a grant from the Football Foundation, who consider Woodingdean Wanderers to be the lead Football Club in the area and are supportive of the Clubs development of the facility.

Projected plan, 5 years.

Age Group	Gender	Current	Year 1	Year 5
		2023/24	2024/25	2028/29
Mini - Soccer (U7-U10)	Female	3	2	4
	Mixed	8	8	10

Youth (U11-U18)	Female	6	7	
	Mixed	9	12	14
Open Age	Male	2	2	3
	Female			
	Mixed	1	1	2
Veteran	Male	1	1	2
	Female			
	Mixed			
Disability Youth	Male			
	Female			
	Mixed			
Disability Open Age	Male			
	Female			
	Mixed		1	2
Futsal	Male			
	Female			
	Mixed			
Totals		30	34	37

David Downes Woodingdean Wanderers FC “Having a suitable facility, we can ensure we always provide football all year round regardless of the weather. This will support the growth of the women’s and girls’ game in our community.”

Other Supporting clubs, groups and Organisations

Sussex County FA

“The Sussex CFA are currently engaged with Brighton & Hove City Council, Longhill School, Football Foundation and Woodingdean Wanderers with a view to support the provision of an artificial grass pitch (3G) at Longhill School.”

Brighton & Hove City Council – Inclusion in the cities Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Investment Plan 2021-31 which recommends the continued maintenance and investment in a small network of locally accessible community leisure centres to support the need of residents.

Rottingdean Football Club – A charter standard Football club who host both adult and youth football throughout 7 leagues within Sussex. The club is well established and has existing links with Longhill High School and Sports Centre. They have 2 adult teams, a vet’s team, 10 youth teams. Rottingdean is geographically the second dominate team in the local area after Woodingdean Wanderers FC.

Keith Meeres – Rottingdean Football Club

“Obviously it’s difficult to accurately forecast our usage 3 years ahead, but if it was available today, we would ask for 10 midweek training sessions (probably for a minimum of around 45 weeks of the

year). We would also look at training at weekends in the winter months- so possibly 5 sessions x 12 weeks. We would hope to play matches at weekends on the full-size pitch, so assume 2 matches each week. Access to a 3G pitch could potentially be quite a game changer for our football club. Currently our club's ambitions for growing senior/ adult football are limited as we do not have floodlights. Assuming your plans include floodlights that would be of interest to us as it would enable us to potentially play at a higher level in the football pyramid and set up additional teams. They currently play at Step 7 but the lack of floodlights (which they are unlikely to get permission for at their ground) will prevent them from moving up to step 6 and beyond."

Lewes Football Club – the project is interested in working with this team because of their high profile within the women's game. Their women's team competing in the Women's Championship. They are also very community minded being a community owned club and believe in 'Football for Good' and 'Equality FC'.

Ed Briggs – Director Lewes FC

"We would be potentially interested in taking Training session slots, on a regular basis for our boys U18's team on Thursdays between 7pm and 9pm. (July to May). Also of interest would be Saturday mornings for running our Rookie Kicker Sessions for girls' football, of all age groups, which are run from 9am to 11am. (September to April). By expanding these sessions into East Brighton, it could potentially help us spot talent for our girl's pathway."

VYD – Value Your Development – This is a not-for-profit organisation who use football to enable personal development and help tackle social economic pressures that effect the UK's most deprived and neglected communities. They have 2 wings to their organisation; one is focus on youth work and people development and the other is called Away from Home which is focused on refugees and asylum seekers.

Greg Pleece – Value Your Development

"We'd be delighted to work with you on this. Indeed, we would be interested in hiring the 3G although it is a little early to say where and when at the moment, but do factor us into the process."

Sussex FA Disability League – Their aim is to promote disability football throughout Sussex and provide competition for people with all abilities. They are also part of Sussex FA. It was established in 2009 and since 2012 has become independent. They currently offer 9 sessions ranging from under 8's to adults 11 v 11 development.

Steve Atkins – Chairman Sussex Disability Football

"This sounds great We would be very interested in getting involved and making contact regarding the next steps. Thank you for thinking of us. We would like to book in Monday evenings from 6pm until 9pm, please, if that is okay."

Lewes Rugby club – We have approached this group to mitigate the loss of the rugby pitch. Their vision is to be inclusive, outstanding, progressive and sustainable for all people and a leading provider of sports opportunities in Sussex.

Paul Nicholl, Honorary Secretary Lewes Rugby Club

“I have sounded out our chairman, treasurer and another senior committee member, and all are warmly supportive of your venture. We assume that the proposed pitch would have floodlights that facilitate training in the winter months. Please do keep in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do at this end.”

Brighton Seagal’s FC – We have approached this group, an inclusive football club for women and non-binary people in Brighton & Hove.

BLAGSS – We have approached this group, BLAGSS is a sports and social group that now has around 470 lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender members from across Brighton and Hove, Sussex and beyond.

Secretary BLAGSS *“We currently train every week in the centre of Brighton so given your location it probably wouldn’t work on a weekly basis. We would however be open to using the facility for weekend 11-a-side games if that was an option”*

Albion in the Community – Changing lives through the power of football. Longhill High School employs an Albion in the Community worker to provide an alternative provision for the school’s disengaged pupils.

Longhill High School Wellbeing League – The School would like to set up a wellbeing league for local employers.

LGBTQ+ - We recognise that Brighton & Hove is home to a large LGBTQ+ community. 11-15% estimate in 2014. We believe that the partnership has a responsibility to bring about community cohesion. We have approached BLAGSS and Brighton Seagal’s FC have been approached.

Local Primary and Special Schools – 5 local Primary and 1 special school (St Margaret’s Primary, Our Lady of Lourdes Primary, Rudyard Kipling Primary, Woodingdean Primary, Saltdean Primary & Downs view special school).

Whitehawk FC (Men’s and Women’s) – 30% of our students are based in from Whitehawk.

Let's Get Moving...Brighton & Hove Physical Activity and Sports Strategy 2024-2034

Let's Get Moving (LGM) is a National Health Service programme that aims to change behaviour by the prevention of physical inactivity-related chronic disease by providing physical activity opportunities either at a national or local level.

Physical Activity and Health

The benefits of regular physical activity have been clearly articulated: for adults, achieving 150 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity a week helps prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.

The Scale of Physical Inactivity

Despite the multiple health gains associated with physical active lifestyle, only 39% of adult males and 29% of adult women meet the Chief Medical Officer's recommendations for physical activity. As many as 27 million adults in England alone are not sufficiently active to benefit their health.

Brighton & Hove

At a local level we want Brighton & Hove to be a place to live where everyone feels inspired, included and able to enjoy the benefits of moving more regardless of age, gender, race, ability, identity background or circumstances and by doing so create a healthier and more sustainable future for our city.

There are 5 Key areas to focus on:

1. Active Culture – good habits established with our young people will help cement a culture of activity.
2. Active People – the development of a 3g pitch at Longhill High School will provide opportunities for our community to be active. This will be enhanced with clear pathways for our community to be active throughout their life from mini soccer to veterans.
3. Active Communities – this is a development driven by the local community through our partners Woodingdean Wanderers FC. The development will also champion equality, inclusion and diversity by partnering with diverse community groups.

4. Active Environments – this development will provide a safe environment for all of our community to be more active and provide a great education experience for a community that presently experiences barriers of opportunity to be active compared to others within the city.
5. Active Systems – this is a partnership that engages all our community whatever the background. The development already has the right management structure in place through Longhill School and Sports centre.

We know that by adding even small amounts of physical activity can have huge benefits to our city's health and wellbeing.

- Improved Physical Health – reducing risk and prevalence of preventable long-term conditions.
- Improved mental wellbeing – improved mood and increased resilience, management of long-term health conditions.
- Empowered individuals – improved education outcomes, community involvement.
- Stronger communities – reduced loneliness bring people and organisations together
- Economic benefits – creates jobs, increased productivity, reduced sickness, placemaking.
- A more sustainable city – cleaner air, decarbonisation.